

Dear Mr. Estevez,

On the weekend of March 20th my school, Rancho Milpitas Middle, was broken into and a large amount of money was stolen from my yearbook class. Also two digital cameras were stolen. We are currently working on a fundraising project to regain the lost funds. We had worked very hard to raise money to pay for the yearbooks so the students at our school could get them at a cheaper price. We hosted school events, had fundraising, and we also sold adds to put in the yearbook. Now that the money is all gone, all our hard work will be wasted. We put a lot of time and effort into this yearbook and the students might not even be able to receive them. Our class won't be able to show what they worked so hard on. We have put in long hours after school to make this yearbook the best one yet. Yearbook is a very big commitment, many of my classmates have made sacrifices like not entering in school sports or other extra curricular activities because yearbook consumed much of their free time. The eighth grade students won't be able to have something to hold all their memories of middle school when they go on to high school. Since Rancho is a school part of the Milpitas Unified School District, I thought that City Hall is a good place to turn to for help. So if you can make a donation to our yearbook class it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Ben Le and the Rancho Yearbook staff.

MAR 25 2004



Rancho Milpitas Middle School's All-American team screams and waves flags to cheer on classmates during crazy games and races at Thursday's Battle of the Dons fundraiser.

Photo by Kevin Batangan

School in need

Dear Editor,

The yearbook staff of Rancho Milpitas Middle School would like to inform you of our unfortunate financial loss. Throughout our year our leadership class has been organizing social events to raise money and pay off our debts for yearbook costs, and to entertain our student body in a fun, enjoyable atmosphere.



Recently we finished designing our yearbook and just held an all-school event called Battle of the Dons, which raised a great amount of money and bonded our students.

The countless hours spent before, after, and during school shows how prominent our class is.

Unfortunately our hard work and earnings were taken from us, by a burglary, along with our recently purchased digital cameras we used to make our yearbook higher quality.

At this moment we have nothing, but hope to find the culprits, so we can continue to satisfy our student body by keeping our yearbook promise. We guaranteed them a great yearbook at the end of the year filled with memories and mementos. This might not happen unless we

pay off our debt so hundreds of yearbooks can be shipped to us and distributed to our customers.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated by our class and will ensure that in the end we are one step closer to regaining our loss to make sure our class keeps its head up high and shows our school that when we fall, we have the strength to get back up. Please call us at 945-5561 if you can donate.

Robyn McClymond
(Yearbook co-editor)

Lily Xiong
(Production staff member)

Editor's note to Ms. McClymond and Ms. Xiong: Milpitas Post will donate \$100 to Rancho to help offset the losses.

Fire thank you

Dear Editor,

This is a belated thank you to Milpitas Fire Department stations 2 and 1.

After traveling half way around the world enduring typhoons, hurricanes and snow storms, I came to (the little cornfields) Milpitas. The Great Spirit was looking out for me.

This is by far the best place for anyone to live. When my home caught fire, the fire department was thorough, very professional and kind. They are No. 1 anywhere. Anyone living here is blessed to have such a

Schools

Burglars hit Rancho yearbook classroom

Money from 'Battle of the Dons' fundraiser stolen

BY WES BOWERS

Students at Rancho Milpitas Middle School arrived at the yearbook room Monday with a surprise waiting for them: a busted window and money missing.

Sometime over the weekend thieves broke into the school's cafeteria and then made their way to the yearbook room, according to teacher Kim Schmidt.

She said the culprits busted a window to enter the room, and then made away with an undisclosed amount of money and a digital camera.

Schmidt said the majority of the money taken had been raised at the school's recent fundraiser, "Battle of the Dons."

Schmidt said she believes the culprits may be children.

"There were candy wrappers left behind that lead us to believe it may be kids," she said. "They hit the cafeteria first, took candy from there and then made their way to the yearbook room."

While checks had been made out to the school as part of the fundraiser, Schmidt said the burglars only took the cash.

"It's really sad because we had a teacher here who had purchased an entire page for an ad in this year's book," she said. "All the money he had put forth for the ad is now gone."

Schmidt said the Rancho yearbook students will hold a car wash fundraiser this Saturday at the Burger King on Dempsey Road at noon. She hopes money raised there will make up for the amount of cash stolen over the weekend.

Opinion

Community spirit

Dear Editor,

In last week's edition of the Milpitas Post, you ran an article about the theft of the yearbook money at Rancho Milpitas Middle School. You also ran a letter to the editor written by two Rancho students, Robyn McClymond and Lily Xiong, in which they made a plea for donations to replace the stolen money.



The response to the letter and the article has been overwhelming. The generosity and support shown by the Milpitas community is something that *none of us* will ever forget.

In true Rancho spirit, the students themselves have been amazing. They have collected pennies, dimes and quarters to help replace the money. They have also helped out the members of the yearbook staff by offering kind and encouraging words.

Several community members have hand-delivered checks and envelopes containing cash to the school office. We have also received checks sent to the school via the U.S. mail. Many of those checks and cash donations have been more than \$100. Some of these checks came from parents, but most came from community members, including a check from a City of Milpitas employee. A carwash organized by student Luisa Musika held on Saturday netted several hundred dollars in donations. To all of these caring people, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

Most amazing of all the donations, however, was an envelope left in Mr. James' school mailbox that contained \$1,000. The envelope also contained a letter with encouraging words for both Mr. James and his students. The writer of this letter did not sign a name. The donation was intended to be anonymous. To that person, I also extend my thanks.

This is an amazing community in which to belong. Parents, community members, students and staff members should be proud of the effort they have made to come together to turn a tragic situation into one of life's great lessons. I am humbled by this sense of service,

by the generosity and by the community spirit.

*Michael J. Madalinski,
Rancho Milpitas Middle
School principal*